

Public Bond Hearing and Business Meeting (Tuesday, September 23, 2014)

Generated by Shelley R Shelton on Thursday, October 2, 2014

Members present

Michelle Kaufusi, Julie Rash, McKay Jensen, Marsha Judkins, Taz Murray, Jim Pettersson, Shannon Poulsen

Staff present

Supt. Keith C. Rittel; Asst. Supt. Ray Morgan; Executive Assistant Shelley Shelton; Darin Loertscher, Tech Support; Gary Wall Exec. Director Human Resources, Alex Judd, Director of Elementary Education; Caleb Price, Communications & PR Coordinator

Meeting called to order at 6:59 PM

A. 7:00 p.m. School Construction Bond Hearing

1. Welcome: Pres. Michelle Kaufusi

. Roll Call

3. Motion to Convene Bond Hearing

I move we convene the public bond hearing.

Motion by Jim Pettersson, second by Marsha Judkins.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Michelle Kaufusi, Julie Rash, McKay Jensen, Marsha Judkins, Taz Murray, Jim Pettersson, Shannon Poulsen

4. Pro / Con Statements

Vice President Julie Rash read the prepared "Pro" statement.

Reasons to vote "Yes" on this bond initiative:

This Bond measure is the culmination of a very thorough, inclusive process.

- A Facilities Advisory Committee (FAC) was formed in February 2013, with representatives from each of our 13 elementary school boundaries.
- After thoroughly evaluating each building, architectural and engineering experts provided a comprehensive report to the FAC.
- Enrollment trends in the district and population projections were also studied. The FAC identified nearly \$200M in facility needs. Out of consideration for the taxpayers, they recommended addressing only the most critical of those needs this bond cycle.
- Seeking to include as many citizens as possible in this decision making process, the board took an initial proposal to the public. Public meetings along with an independent survey of local residents indicated overwhelmingly positive support, which resulted in board approval of this bond initiative.
- This community-wide effort will result in community-wide benefits, including increased property values and stronger neighborhoods.

These schools are 50-65 years old. They are outdated and have reached the end of their intended life spans.

- Current seismic codes indicate that these schools are in need of immediate replacement.
- We are unable to adequately address current security issues in schools constructed in a different era.
- These schools are unable to take full advantage of technology advances available today.

State funding for capital needs does not allow the district to save sufficient funds to rebuild schools.

- Bonding is the mechanism used to finance large expenditures that fall outside of typical operating expenses.
- Bonding for schools is similar to an individual taking out a mortgage to buy a house. Inflation generally outpaces savings rates, making it unrealistic to save for such large expenditures.

Provo City School District has a strong record of fiscal responsibility.

- The finance office has earned awards for the last 11 years in recognition of outstanding financial reporting and transparency from nationally recognized government organizations.
- Bond rating of Aa2, an improvement over A1 in 2004.
- 2012-2013: 1% of budget savings (mainly from district office reductions) were directed to teacher compensation, technology, and curriculum.
- After passage of this bond, Provo taxation rates will remain below neighboring districts of Alpine and Nebo.
- Bonds will be issued in phases to coincide with retiring bonds to avoid tax spikes.
- All planning estimates are very cautious. Interest rates have been calculated above what's expected to be the worst-case scenarios, so the only surprises generated for taxpayers are good ones.

The School Board passed a resolution committing to responsible and transparent use of these bond funds.

- Renovation/maintenance over the next ten years generally exceeds the cost of rebuilding these schools.
- All options for design/materials/construction methods will be considered.
- Standardized architectural designs will minimize design costs.
- Materials will be consistent for all buildings and purchased in bulk to maximize savings.
- Bond expenditures will be published regularly on the district website.
- A 50-year facilities plan is in its final stage of development.

Please vote YES for the Provo City School District school reconstruction bond!

No "Con" statements had been submitted to date.

5. Bond Hearing / Public Input

- Marty Evans, 576 E 3230 N, member of the Facilities Advisory Committee, the Bond Executive Committee and the Bond Citizens' Committee, expressed appreciation for the opportunity to be involved in the bond process. She stated the bond initiative is not just a board initiative; it's a community initiative to provide a safe environment for our kids. The process has been fair, legal and transparent, and she whole-heartedly supports it.
- Lana Bailey 488 E 4190 N, stated she is a concerned citizen and parent of students in Edgemont Elementary. The bond is a great investment in Provo's future. It's a legacy for those who come after us. Provo citizens care about our kids and about education.
- Michelle Johnson, 129 E 3800 N, parent of two students at Edgemont Elementary, supports the bond. Ms. Johnson commented that a neighborhood has a life cycle, starting with young and mid-range families, retired and elderly. Her neighborhood is cycling back to include more young and mid-range families with school-age children what would attend Edgemont.
- Liz Paxman, 3057 Comanche Lane, noted concern others had expressed about diminishing school sizes. Edgemont and Rock Canyon, however, are both growing, which emphasizes the need to rebuild the school. She expressed appreciation for the work of the FAC and voiced support for the bond.
- Nathan Walch, 461 S 1440 W, Facility Advisory Committee member, expressed support for the bond on behalf of the west side of town.

Member McKay Jensen encouraged those in attendance to attend the remaining the bond information nights, encourage their neighbors to register to vote, and to get out and vote.

It was noted the second bond hearing will take place Oct. 28 at 6:00 p.m. in the Professional Development Center at the district office.

6. Motion to Adjourn Bond Hearing

I move we adjourn the public bond hearing and move into the business meeting.

Motion by Shannon Poulsen, second by McKay Jensen.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Michelle Kaufusi, Julie Rash, McKay Jensen, Marsha Judkins, Taz Murray, Jim Pettersson, Shannon Poulsen

B. 8:00 p.m. Business Meeting

1. Welcome

2. Roll Call

3. Pledge of Allegiance: Nathan Walch

4. Trip Approval

Timpview Basketball Coach Kevin Santiago shared the background on the proposed trip as follows:

- The tournament is the Tarkanian Classic, a premier tournament tailored to the best basketball teams in Utah.
- Care was taken to ensure the tournament time frame minimizes the number of school days missed - Dec. 17-20. The team would leave Wed. after school and play Thur-Sat.
- Accommodations are at the Orleans Resort, several miles away from the Vegas "strip." There will be four boys to a room with adults interspersed between the boys.
- A large contingency of parents and coaches wives will accompany the team.
- The tournament was a turning point for the season last year.
- This is the second consecutive year the team will play in the tournament, giving team members an opportunity to play in front of coaches outside of Utah.

Questions/Requirements from the Board:

- Is there a Code of Conduct?
 - Yes, the Code of Conduct includes academic and behavior requirements. The rules stipulate that boys are not allowed to leave the resort.
- The requirement from the board that the team is not to go to the "strip" will be added to the travel request.

I move we approve the Timpview High School basketball trip to Las Vegas, Nevada.

Motion by Jim Pettersson, second by Marsha Judkins.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Michelle Kaufusi, Julie Rash, McKay Jensen, Marsha Judkins, Taz Murray, Jim Pettersson, Shannon Poulsen

I move we approve the Timpview High School Orchestra trip to Anaheim, CA.

Motion by Marsha Judkins, second by Jim Pettersson.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Michelle Kaufusi, Julie Rash, McKay Jensen, Marsha Judkins, Taz Murray, Jim Pettersson, Shannon Poulsen

C. Adjourn

1. Motion to Adjourn

I move we adjourn the business meeting.

Motion by Marsha Judkins, second by Taz Murray.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Michelle Kaufusi, Julie Rash, McKay Jensen, Marsha Judkins, Taz Murray, Jim Pettersson, Shannon Poulsen

The business meeting was adjourned at 7:39 p.m.